SUMMER 2025

Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine

GREETINGS

***James T. Genovese** (1971)*
President
Northwestern State University

Greetings from Natchitoches!

We've just wrapped up a busy and productive spring semester, and campus is still buzzing with activity. This summer, Northwestern is hosting a wide range of events — from academic workshops to dinner theatre productions to a drone technology showcase. There's something happening every day, and it's a great time to be on campus.

One of the most exciting parts of the season is welcoming so many young people to NSU. Between youth camps and seven sessions of Freshman Connection, we're seeing hundreds of new faces exploring what it means to be part of the Demon family. Their energy and enthusiasm are contagious, and it's a powerful reminder of why we do what we do.

If it's been a while since you checked in on NSU, now's a great time to reconnect. We're sharing updates, events and student stories regularly on Facebook and Instagram — follow us at ***facebook.com/NorthwesternState*** and ***instagram.com/nsula.*** There's a lot happening, and even more to come. No matter how long you've been away, you'll always be part of the Demon family.

Keep in touch, come visit when you can, and as always — Fork 'Em Demons!

Jill Bankston (1997)
Director
Alumni & Development

Dear Alumni,

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the wonderful reception and feedback you gave us during our spring Alumni After Hours, golf tournaments, Golden Jubilee and fundraising events. We enjoyed catching up and sharing memories as much as you did.

You may want to go ahead and mark your calendars for **Homecoming 2025**, which will be a bit early this year on **Friday, Oct. 3 and Saturday, Oct. 4**. We are already making plans for a wonderful weekend to honor outstanding members of the NSU family, and we hope you can join the festivities. Look for important announcements soon!

I also want to thank our generous donors who continue to support student scholarships and faculty development as well as volunteering time and resources, opening their homes and sharing what NSU means. We truly appreciate you all.

I always say that the best part of my job is helping you stay connected to our alma mater and the genuine relationships that are built around NSU. Wherever you are, you are always part of the Northwestern State family. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Read the Columns online by scanning this QR code.

www.northwesternstatealumni.com

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On the Cover: Freshman Connectors Madison Book and Nicholas Robinson gather the Purple Group for orientation.

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CONSAH celebrates anniversaries, honors late dean Joel Hicks

NSU's College of Nursing and School of Allied Health (CONSAH) celebrated two significant milestones while honoring a former dean whose impact continues to resonate.

During a May 2 reception at NSU's Shreveport campus, 1800 Line Ave., the College of Nursing marked its 75th year and the School of Allied Health it's 55th year with current and former students and faculty, administrators and community healthcare partners gathering to celebrate the milestone.

A second celebration took place May 8 at the Cenla campus where Rep. Cleo Fields issued congressional commendations to acknowledge the role that NSU's College of Nursing and School of Allied have impacted public health over the past several decades.

"Northwestern State was the first school that answered the call to educate nurses 75 years ago and put it in a collegiate setting and we continue to be the leader in nursing and allied health education, moving the professions forward," said Dr. Greg Handel, NSU's executive vice president and provost.

Northwestern State admitted its first baccalaureate nursing students in 1949 as the nursing community in Shreveport recognized the need for a collegiate-based nursing program. Following the recommendations of a national consultant, five hospitals agreed to phase out their diploma programs opening the door for Northwestern State to create a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, the oldest state-supported nursing program in Louisiana

In 1968, the Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technology (BSRT) program was implemented in the Department of Life Sciences. This program was placed in the College of Nursing in 1994. Radiologic Technology was changed to the Radiologic Sciences program in 2008 and is housed under the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health.

Handel recognized recently appointed Dean of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health Dr. Aimee Badeaux, former deans Dr. Norann Planchock (Dean Emeritus), Dr. Dana Clawson and the late Dr. Joel Hicks, who passed away last October. Hicks' wife Angela, daughter Katelyn and son-in-law Parker Powell were honored during the presentation of the Dr. Joel Hicks Memorial Scholarship. Friends contributed nearly $12,000 to a scholarship in his memory through the NSU Foundation.

The family of the late Dr. Joel Hicks, former dean of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, was honored during a scholarship presentation May 1. From left are son-in-law Parker Powell, daughter Katelyn and wife Angela with Dr. Aimee Badeaux, current dean.

The Hicks family said in a statement, "When friends and family suggested starting a scholarship fund in Joel's name, we couldn't think of a better way to honor Joel. Once the donations reached the endowment level, we were overwhelmed and humbled by the kindness shown to us. Joel would have been speechless."

Information on the Dr. Joel Hicks Scholarship is available at www.northwesternstatealumni.com/hicks-scholarship/.

Badeaux, who was appointed dean April 24 after serving as interim, said the College's success would not be possible without the support of alumni and community healthcare partners.

"It is the deepest honor of my life to be able to continue this important work," Badeaux said. "I would be remiss not to thank all of those that came before me in this role and our faculty and staff. I believe that we are the innovative pace setters and we are the leaders with the work that we do."

"We look forward to another 75 years of excellence and being the leader in nursing and allied health professions, being responsive to the needs of our students and of society," Handel said.

Information on degree programs offered through NSU's College of Nursing and School of Allied Health is available at www.nsula.edu/nursing/.

NSU concluded anniversary celebrations with a reception at the NSU Cenla Campus in Alexandria. From left are Dr. Aimee Badeaux, dean; NSU President James Genovese and Colson Fontenot, representing U.S. Rep. Cleo Fields.

Three Distinguished Communications Professionals recognized

NSU's Department of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts honored the late famed sportswriter Jerry Byrd, news anchor and reporter Lane Luckie and media strategist Valsin Marmillion as Distinguished Communications Professionals during a luncheon and awards program April 4.

Honorees are graduates with successful careers in and/or significant contributions to the fields of journalism, photojournalism, communications, news editorial, public relations, political strategy, media production, web content production and emerging media, as well as individuals who have made significant contributions to the Department.

In preparing for the April 4 program, NSU asked each honoree to select one word to describe their career and/or their professional philosophy.

Byrd devoted more than 50 years to journalism, earning numerous accolades during his long and prolific career. His family selected the word "legendary." Jerry Byrd Jr. accepted the award on behalf of his family

"Our father was a legendary award-winning sportswriter, but he was so much more than that. He was a legendary husband, father and grandfather. In everything he did—whether it was coaching the City of Shreveport swim team, taking a carload of youngsters to a summer track meet in Chicago, Illinois, taking his children to choir practice at First Baptist on Sunday afternoons, teaching a Sunday School class, or writing about a one-legged high jumper from Shreveport's Linwood Middle School, who would meet the President of the United States as a result of an article our father wrote—Jerry Byrd Sr. was legendary man who put extraordinary effort into everything he did."

Luckie, a Tyler, Texas, news anchor and reporter, has twice won a Regional Emmy from the Lone Star Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. He has reported news and events at the local and regional level and has traveled abroad to report on international events. He selected the word "lucky."

"Growing up with the last name Luckie, I'm constantly asked, 'Are you actually lucky?' So, I've spent a considerable portion of my life pondering that question, often adjusting my perspective to recognize how truly fortunate and blessed I am," he said. "The opportunity to participate in consequential journalism, share inspiring stories, pursue creative projects, travel the world and forge meaningful friendships has made for an extraordinary career so far. This 'luck' has also kept me mindful of the individuals who have encouraged and guided me over the years — instilling in me a personal connection to the importance of serving others."

Marmillion is former managing director of America's WETLAND Foundation, former president and CEO of Marmillion and Company and adjunct instructor at the University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications. A top campaign strategist for political and cause-related campaigns, he has coordinated a variety of award-winning national campaigns for clients doing important work for the environment, public health, government, education, society and the arts. Marmillion selected the word "yes" to define his career.

Pictured from left are Val Marmillion, Jerry Byrd Jr. and Lane Luckie.

"I have found that saying yes more often leads to positive outcomes. It alters the mood of a meeting and the onslaught of so many Devil's Advocates, who practice throwing a wrench into creativity," he said.

Alumni previously honored as Distinguished Communications Professionals participated in the program. Pulitzer Prize winner and NSU journalism instructor Jim Mustian emceed the lunch with assistance from Doug Ireland, NSU's long-time Sports Information Director who continues to serve the university as an advisor to NSU President James Genovese. Robert Gentry paid tribute to his friend and NSU advocate, the late Jerry Pierce, who served over 57 years on staff at Northwestern and was vice president of External Affairs at the time of his death in 2022. All are 2023 honorees.

The awards lunch was also a forum to share news about New Media students' recent accomplishments, awards earned from the College Media Association and special editions of student publications.

Information on Northwestern State's Department of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts is available at www.nsula.edu/newmedia/.

Pictured are Ryan Glorioso and Rovert Larrivière, Mark Minton and Gretchen Murchison

Creative and Performing Arts adds four to Hall of Fame

The Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts added four members to its Hall of Fame for the 2024-25 year. They are Ryan Glorioso and Robert Larrivière of New Orleans, Mark Minton of Bossier City and Gretchen Murchison of Natchitoches.

"Each inductee has proven themselves exceptional in their chosen fields and continue to do our school and the university proud," said Scott Burrell, director of the School of Creative and Performing Arts. "Gretchen, Mark, Robert and Ryan certainly deserve this honor as they represent Northwestern's commitment to preparing our students to excel in their life and careers."

Glorioso is a Louisiana-based casting director with over two decades of experience in the entertainment industry who has made a significant impact on the Southern film scene. After graduating from Northwestern with a bachelor's degree in theatre, Glorioso spent time honing his craft as an actor in Los Angeles. Upon returning to New Orleans in 2004, he embraced the burgeoning film industry and quickly found his niche in casting.

With a proven track record of over 120 film and TV credits, Glorioso is recognized as a leading casting director in Louisiana. He is dedicated to nurturing the talents of aspiring Southern actors and has played a pivotal role in their career development. Glorioso is a member of the Casting Society of America and the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

He has been nominated for two Artios Awards from the Casting Society of America.

He has worked on over 100 film and television productions, including "13 Reasons Why," "The Lovebirds" and "Mayfair Witches." Glorioso has had the opportunity to collaborate with multiple NSU alumni, including Wanetah Walmsley, Kent Jude Bernard, Jaime Newman, Luke Sexton, Mike Mayhall, Brooklyn Campagne, Garett Prejean, Liam Gardner and Cody Olsen.

Larrivière is an accomplished actor, writer and director with a lifelong career in theatre, television and film. He studied theatre at Northwestern and trained at The Groundlings, honing his craft in performance and storytelling. With a career spanning regional theatre, independent cinema and major studio productions, he has built a reputation for delivering nuanced, character-driven performances. His extensive credits include "Where the Crawdads Sing," "The Girl from Plainville," "Jeff, Who Lives at Home," "Carry On," "Sneaky Pete" and "NCIS: New Orleans" along with a wide range of roles that showcase his versatility. As a filmmaker, he wrote, directed and produced the award-winning short film "This is Jan" and remains committed to telling meaningful stories with honesty and heart.

Larrivière worked in various film production roles, including set decoration buyer, art department coordinator and transportation department.

Glorioso and Larrivière recently started their own production company, dedicated to producing films that tell untold or lost queer stories.

"Ryan and Robert are true representatives of the Department of Theatre & Dance," said Brett Garfinkel, chair of NSU's Department of Theatre and Dance. "Since leaving NSU, they have carved out a career path of their own, creating a casting agency in New Orleans, all while having performance careers of their own. Their latest work in the film, 'This is Jan,' is another major milestone in their artistic journey. They are both a force to be reckoned with. This honor is well deserved."

Minton, a native of south Louisiana, holds his bachelors and Master of Music degrees from Northwestern. He has been the director of bands at Parkway High School in Bossier City since 1997, where he directs the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble and Marching Band. Under his direction, the Parkway Band consistently receives superior ratings at competitions on the district, state and national level for both concert band and marching band.

Minton's bands receive many requests to perform at business openings, military events at Barksdale Air Force Base as well as special events in the Shreveport area. Minton has adjudicated at band, jazz and solo and ensemble festivals throughout Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas.

As a professional musician, Minton is a composer, arranger and performer. He is a former member of the Mesquite Symphony

Stacy selected to lead Northwestern State's Graduate School

For the first time in over a decade, NSU has reinstated a full-time dean to lead its Graduate School, naming a familiar and trusted face to guide the next era of advanced academic excellence.

Dr. Mary Edith Stacy will serve as dean of the Graduate School, where she will oversee admissions and enrollment for 25 graduate degree programs in nursing, allied health, education, art, languages, cultural studies, psychology, music, health and human performance, criminal justice, history, social sciences and computer information systems. Along with the Graduate Council she will also have oversight over graduate assistantships and guidance for thesis review, graduate research projects and approved field studies.

Northwestern State has not had a full-time Graduate School dean in many years since the position was absorbed by the Office of the Provost, the university's chief academic officer, with an associate provost overseeing the Graduate School. The associate provost position was eliminated a decade ago, leaving NSU the only school in the University of Louisiana System without a full time Graduate School dean, according to Dr. Greg Handel, NSU's executive vice president and provost.

Stacy has served as dean of the College of Business and Technology since 2022. She has been a member of the staff and faculty at Northwestern State since 1992, working in the Office of Financial Aid as coordinator of university scholarships from 1992 to 1998 and as director of auxiliary services from 1998 until 2003. From 2003 to 2011, she was director of enrollment management where she was responsible for NSU's student recruitment and retention plan and future enrollment forecasting. She also served on faculty in the Department of Psychology and School of Business, teaching classes in business statistics and operations management. She earned her bachelor's and master's degree at Northwestern State and a doctorate at Louisiana State University.

Dr. Curtis Penrod will continue to serve as director of the School of Business and Handel will maintain supervisory oversight for the College of Business and Technology for any Dean-related matters. A national search for a new dean will begin soon with the intent of making a selection this fall to be approved by the ULS Board of Supervisors.

Hall of Fame *continued*

Orchestra, North Texas Symphony Orchestra and currently performs with the Bill Causey Orchestra. Minton is co-founder and assistant conductor of the Red River Wind Orchestra, a professional concert band whose mission is to perform challenging music of "Artistic Merit." Minton's professional affiliations include Phi Beta Mu, National Association of Music Educators, Louisiana Music Education Association and Kappa Kappa Psi.

"Mark Minton certainly deserves membership in the CAPA Hall of Fame because of his lasting impact, not only on his students, but also because of his continued dedication to NSU as a mentor teacher for music education students in residency, guiding and inspiring the next generation of band directors," said Dr. Terrie Sanders, head of the Department of Music at NSU. "From his years as a music education student in the Department of Music to his continued partnership, Mr. Minton is undoubtedly leaving a lasting legacy at NSU."

Murchison is a ceramic artist and tableware designer. She grew up in rural west Natchitoches Parish " and spent many hours traversing wooded trails, wide open pastures, shaded creeks and boggy ponds, instilling in her a love of nature that can be seen in her porcelain and stoneware through shape and movement. Her admiration of ceramic artists Jennifer McCurdy and Elizabeth Borowsky, artists who are similarly inspired by nature, has had a significant impact on her work. Murchison has a Bachelors of Fine Arts that she obtained while raising her family and starting her ceramic business.

She has been growing her business and brand since 2017. Murchison has designed two multi-piece collections of sculptural tableware for Beatriz Ball New Orleans, and her work is featured with Fig and Dove in Baton Rouge, The Plant Shoppe in Fairhope, Alabama, and several interior designers throughout the south.

She is inspired by Louisiana nature and the southern gulf coast. Through her work she has developed her own techniques that have become recognizable and sought after, creating her own signature style. The lines and colors of her work reflect her love of the area and reflect her playful nature with its unexpected movement. She is known for her voluminous floral inspired Bloom Collection and her stylistic ruched technique found in her Louisiana Collection.

Murchison has designed tableware and collectables for the Natchitoches Picnic Company, a signature Queen Sophia vase for the Natchitoches Spring Arts Festival queen, the Bayou Bloom, Coastal Bloom and Thistle vase collections. Her works are both elegant and functional while being the embodiment of her joy of life. In all her collections, she is inspired by home and community. She opened her own studio and gallery in Natchitoches last year and plans to continue creating sculptural ceramic artwork and tableware designs. Her work is on view at www.gretchenmurchisonceramics.com.

"As a non-traditional student, Gretchen brought focus and intention to her time in our BFA program. It was inspirational to see her navigate family, school and business," said Leslie Gruesbeck, head of the Department of Fine and Graphic Arts at NSU. "And now the fruits of that labor we see in her growing business—her collaboration with Beatrix Ball brings international attention to Gretchen's work."

For more information on the School of Creative and Performing Arts, go to www.nsula.edu/capa.

NSU honors Dr. Karl Carpenter with Nth Degree presentation

Northwestern State University recognized the leadership and impact of retiring Pineville High School Principal Dr. Karl Carpenter (1979) by presenting him with the Nth Degree, a special honor for individuals who go the extra mile in meritorious service. Carpenter's 45-year career in education left an indelible mark on countless students, educators and the broader community through his commitment to teaching, leadership and music education. From left are former NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio, Director of Enrolllment Management Van Erikson, Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. Greg Handel, Bill Brent, former director of NSU's School of Creative and Performing Arts; Carpenter and his wife Terri, also an NSU alum, and NSU President James Genovese. Carpenter was inducted in NSU's Hall of Distinguished Educators in 2010. He has been a Demon football season ticketholder for decades. On May 14, the Louisiana House of Representatives passed House Resolution 171 to commend Carpenter on the occasion of his retirement.

N-Club quarterback Guidry's jersey retired from Church Point High

The Battlin' Bears of Church Point High School honored alum Don Guidry by retiring his #12 jersey. Guidry went on to play quarterback for the Demons for four seasons, including being part of a QB tandem on the undefeated 1966 squad (9-0) that finished first in the NAIA small college poll in 1966 and rolled to a Gulf States Conference title. Guidry threw a TD pass to Dick Reding as part of a double-digit comeback to lift NSU to a 27-24 win against Southeastern in 1966 finale, preserving perfect record. He led NSU in passing in three seasons, totaling more than 3,000 yards and 35 touchdowns. His 16 passing touchdowns as a senior were an NSU record until 2013. He threw for 1,712 yards as a senior, a record that stood until Bobby Hebert broke it in 1980. Guidry was inducted into the N-Club Hall of Fame in 1976 and named a Top 100 Demons of the Century in 2007. He is pictured with his family at the Church Point celebration, son Trey Guidry, wife Elaine and son Philip.

PEOPLE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...

WENDI PALERMO, PH.D. *MONROE, LOUISIANA - 1999, 2002*

Wendi Palermo

Wendi Palermo, Ph.D., (1999, 2002) was recently appointed interim chancellor of Louisiana Delta Community College (LDCC).

Dr. Palermo is a leader with extensive knowledge of LDCC and the region it serves. She brings a strong track record of results in academics and workforce development.

Palermo's previous role was chief education and training officer for Louisiana Technical and Community College System. Throughout her career, Palermo has served in diverse leadership roles that highlight her versatility and effectiveness, including dean of SOWELA Technical Community College, interim vice chancellor of Academic Affairs at LDCC and multiple leadership roles within the LCTCS Board Office. In each capacity, she has demonstrated an exceptional ability to drive innovation, build consensus, and deliver meaningful results.

Palermo has had a profound impact on healthcare workforce training in Louisiana, spearheading a $25 million initiative that has resulted in more than 8,000 healthcare professionals entering the workforce since 2021. Under her leadership, LCTCS manages a portfolio exceeding $50 million in workforce and academic initiatives, keeping the system at the forefront of addressing the state's workforce needs. Her expertise in accreditation and strategic oversight of academic and workforce units further solidifies her reputation as a visionary leader.

In addition to her professional achievements, Palermo serves on the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, the Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center Board and the Beauregard Health System Board. Her volunteerism reflects her dedication to improving lives through education, healthcare and community engagement.

"Winner Takes All" – SON announces fall shows

Associate Director of Bands/Director of Athletic Bands Trevor Bailey announces the 2025 show "Winner Takes All," which promises to push the boundaries of innovation with stunning visuals, captivating costuming and trailblazing performances.

Checkout the preview video here: www.nsu.la/SON2025 or by scanning QR code below.

The Spirit of Northwestern Demon Marching Band has also been invited to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland, in March 2027. The band last appeared in the parade in 2015. This opportunity will be afforded to current students, faculty and alumni band members.

If you are a middle school or high school teacher in any discipline, please promote NSU in your classroom. A simple pennant, poster or other "swag" can go a long way. If you need something, contact Director of Bands Dr. Anthony Pursell at pursella@nsula.edu.

"Supporting your alma mater in this manner may be the first experience for a student to realize that NSU exists," Pursell said. "More directly, if you are a high school band director, I hope you will allow us to come to your rehearsal hall or practice field to talk to your students for a few minutes. While we are there, we are happy to lend an extra set of eyes and ears and assist."

Scan QR to watch preview video of Fall 2025 Spirit of Northwestern Demon Marching Band shows or visit www.nsu.la/SON2025.

Gary Fields and Jim Mustian

Alumni part of AP team nominated for Pulitzer; both previous winners

Associated Press journalists Gary Fields and Jim Mustian were part of a team of reporters named finalists for the 2025 Pulitzer Prize in the category of Breaking News Reporting. The announcements were made May 5.

The finalists were praised for "fast, comprehensive and authoritative coverage of the assassination attempt on then-presidential candidate Donald Trump, including vivid details from the scene followed by the first reporting on gaps in security measures by the Secret Service and local law enforcement," according to the Pulitzer.org. The series of articles to which Fields and Mustian contributed is available at https://www.pulitzer.org/finalists/22688.

Fields and Mustian are both alumni of NSU's Department of Journalism and both are previous Pulitzer Prize winners.

"It is an honor to be in the conversation for a Pulitzer Prize, especially with this group of people at the AP. They did amazing work. Making this more meaningful is one of my teammates is fellow NSU grad, Jim Mustian. It really doesn't get better than that," Fields said.

"I am blessed to work with such talented journalists at The Associated Press who are committed to telling important stories like these," Mustian said.

Fields is a 1982 and 1984 graduate of Northwestern State. He was among the reporters at the Wall Street Journal who won a Pulitzer Prize in 2002 in Breaking News for the paper's coverage of the 9/11 attacks in 2001. Over his career, he has covered athletics, investigative projects, the U.S. Justice Department, criminal justice, mental health, tribal issues and religion.

His awards range from being the National Association of Black Journalists Journalist of the Year to winning a Thurgood Marshall Award for the coverage of death penalty issues and a White House Correspondence Award for covering criminal justice. Fields is a member of the Long Purple Line, NSU's alumni hall of distinction.

Mustian graduated from NSU in 2008 and is an investigative reporter for the Associated Press in New York. Before joining AP in 2018, he was as an investigative reporter for the New Orleans Advocate, where he was part of a team that won a Pulitzer Prize for a series about an unusual Louisiana law that allowed nonunanimous juries to convict people of felonies. A native of St. John the Baptist Parish, Mustian has also written for newspapers in Texas and Georgia. He graduated from NSU in 2008 and is currently an adjunct professor teaching feature writing and beat reporting for NSU's Department of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts.

"When Jim got hired at AP, I was happy as a clam that we'd gotten him," Fields said. "I always hoped we'd work together. It just adds something that the two guys from the real Northwestern - in Natchitoches - get to be involved and contribute to articles that are so highly honored. Looking at our careers, I can say the journalism/media school at NSU gave us some tools to work with."

Fields and Mustian were both honored as Distinguished Communications Professionals in 2023 by NSU's Department of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts. Information on the Department is available at www.nsula.edu/newmedia/.

> "I always hoped we'd work together. It just adds something that the two guys from the real Northwestern - in Natchitoches - get to be involved and contribute to articles that are so highly honored. Looking at our careers, I can say the journalism/media school at NSU gave us some tools to work with."
> – GARY FIELDS

Non-traditional grad finds path to advancement though online degree

After several years in the workforce, Joey Braud knew education was the path to a better future. Northwestern State University provided the path for him.

Braud (2013) earned a business administration degree online and is vice president of Network Sales at EcoTech. He lives in Birmingham, Alabama.

"As I progressed in my career, I came to a pivotal realization that not having a college degree was limiting my opportunities for advancement," said Braud. "By 2009, I was married, a new father and the sole provider for my family. Despite the demands on my time and energy, I was determined to pursue higher education and improve my future prospects."

Braud determined online education was his best option. He grew up in Prairieville and graduated from East Ascension High School, so he wanted to earn a degree from a public university in Louisiana

"Through research and word of mouth, I discovered that at the time Northwestern was one of the few institutions in the state offering a fully online four-year degree program," said Braud. "A close friend of mine was enrolled in NSU's online program at the time while working a full-time job. He spoke highly of the experience, which encouraged me to apply."

Earning a degree while working full time and raising a family was not easy. Braud could rely on some of the values he learned in the Marine Corps to help him.

"After graduating high school, I chose to join the United States Marine Corps rather than pursue a traditional college path," said Braud. "My time in the Marines instilled in me a strong work ethic, discipline and a sense of duty—values that have stayed with me ever since."

Joey Braud

Braud was 29 when he enrolled at NSU and graduated when he was 33. He said NSU's faculty and staff played an important role in his success.

"The faculty and staff at NSU were incredibly supportive during my time as an online student, offering flexibility and innovative solutions to overcome the unique challenges we faced," said Braud "They provided accommodations whenever needed and ensured we had a robust experience through group projects, live chats and one-on-one conversations. Most importantly, they understood our non-traditional student needs and worked to accommodate our schedules. For any candidate considering an online degree through NSU, I would recommend it 100 percent based on the experience that I had."

Braud was complimentary of retired business dean and faculty member Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne who he said, "was exceptional, delivering business courses that applied real-world scenarios alongside theory."

EcoTech is a privately owned company offering a range of industrial products including pumps, valves, seals, lubrication systems, motors, and custom engineering solutions. The company focuses on cost-effectiveness, efficiency and environmental sustainability to enhance maintenance, reliability, and process efficiency and overall lower the total cost of ownership for its customers. EcoTech covers the southeastern U.S. with direct sales. Braud works to establish partnerships with companies outside this area for product distribution. The company recently signed a distributor agreement with Richard Armstrong of Trace Reliability in Natchitoches, a fellow NSU alum.

> "For any candidate considering an online degree through NSU, I would recommend it 100 percent based on the experience that I had."
> – JOEY BRAUD

Nominations open for Hall of Distinguished Educators

Northwestern State University's College of Education and Human Development is seeking nominations for the 2025 Hall of Distinguished Educators and Outstanding Young Professionals.

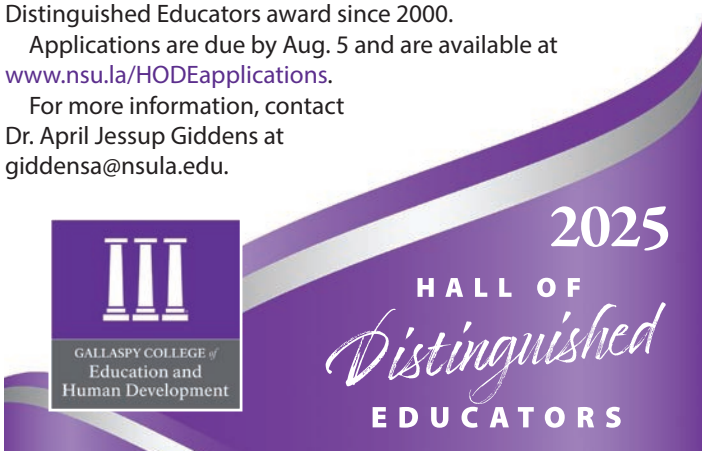
The Hall of Distinguished Educators is the highest honor bestowed by the School of Education. Nominees must have earned an education degree from Northwestern State University, must have a minimum of 30 years of service in the field of education and must have made significant contributions to the field of education and/or the larger community at a local, state, national or international level. Nominees may be living or deceased.

Outstanding Young Professionals in Education must have earned an education degree from NSU and have a minimum of 10 years of service in the field of education. Nominees must have made significant contributions to the field of education and/or the larger community. Nominees must be age 45 or younger.

More than 100 educators have been honored with the Hall of Distinguished Educators award since 2000.

Applications are due by Aug. 5 and are available at www.nsu.la/HODEapplications.

For more information, contact Dr. April Jessup Giddens at giddensa@nsula.edu.

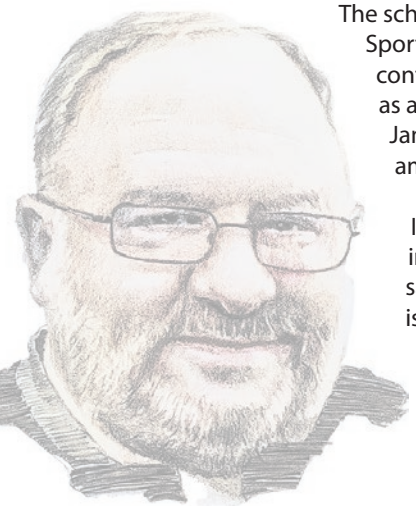


A reception to announce the Doug Ireland Endowed Scholarship, created by Robert "Skeeter" Salim, took place earlier this year. From left are NSU President James Genovese, Buddy Wood, Salim, Ireland, Louie Bernard, David Stamey and James Smith. The scholarship will benefit undergraduate and graduate students pursuing careers in communications, media and/or journalism.

Friends, colleagues gather for Doug Ireland scholarship announcement

"This scholarship is so appropriate in that Doug Ireland dedicated so much time and effort to the Sports Information Office. Doug went from the NSU student to the real Mr. NSU, but he's known by many names: Mr. Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, Mr. Natchitoches, Uncle Dougie and, to dozens of his buddies, the best friend who always answers the call when they get it."

So said Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court David Stamey during an event to announce the Doug Ireland Endowed Scholarship, created by Robert "Skeeter" Salim with a $100,000 gift to the Northwestern State University Foundation.



The scholarship honors NSU's long-time Sports Information Director who continues to serve the university as an advisor to NSU President James Genovese and is a devoted ambassador of his alma mater.

"When you have people like Doug Ireland, you have an abundance of institutional knowledge," Genovese said. "We are so glad to have him. He is a great member of our team."

The scholarship will benefit undergraduate and graduate students pursuing careers in communications, media and/or journalism. The announcement drew friends, colleagues and NSU supporters together to acknowledge Ireland's long commitment to NSU with contributing comments from Genovese, Salim, Louie Bernard, Buddy Wood, former NSU Women's Basketball Coach James Smith and NSU's Associate Athletic Director of External Operations Jason Pugh.

"For those of us who have known Doug all this this time, soon to be 47 years for me, we started praying for him then and we haven't stopped," Wood remarked in a preamble to his invocation. "But this is a very special occasion and we're so honored to be a part of it and to share in this outstanding event."

"We all gather to honor a man who was born in Pennsylvania but became a Louisiana legend and, more to the point, a national legend, a figure whose attachment to Northwestern began as a student and stretched throughout three decades in his career as an athletic administrator. He is one of his alma mater's most ardent supporters," Pugh said.

"He is Deadline Doug," Smith added. "He is a great guy when you win and he's a comfort when you lose. He was always there. Winning was much more enjoyable, but he made good excuses when we lost, and I was proud of the way he did that. He has always been right there."Ireland retired from NSU in 2019 after 30 years of service. During his career, he earned numerous awards from the Louisiana Sports Writers Association and was enshrined in the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame as a winner of the LSWA's Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism. Since 1990,

Social Work celebrates endowment of Triche Scholarship

Friends, family and colleagues gathered to offer reflections on the late Dr. Claudia Moore Triche, former chair of NSU's Department of Social Work, and to announce the endowment of the Claudia Triche Memorial Scholarship that honors her lifelong achievements. It is the first endowed scholarship for the Department and reached the amount of $10,877 through donations to the NSU Foundation. Triche retired from NSU as Professor Emeritus in 2013 after 39 years of service. She passed away in 2020. Representing the family are, from left, grandsons Patrick and Keegan Loveless, daughter Kathryn Triche Loveless, sister Becky Keenan, son Eric Triche and his wife Karyn Triche. Son Adam Triche was unable to attend. Friends can continue to contribute to Claudia Triche Scholarship. Gifts can be mailed to Office of University Advancement, 535 University Parkway, Natchitoches, LA 71497. Online gifts may be made at www.northwesternstatealumni.com/donations/claudia-triche-memorial-scholarship/.

Ireland scholarship *continued*

he has been chairman of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and spearheaded efforts leading to construction and the 2013 opening of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum in Natchitoches. Since 2021, Ireland has been the sports director for Online Journals LLC, which encompasses 14 parish journals in northwest and central Louisiana.

Bernard noted the impact of Salim's generosity that has benefited NSU students over the years.

"Skeeter Salim has chosen to be what can only be called a major force in moving Northwestern forward," Bernard said. "It must be a deep and gratifying moment for Skeeter to look out over this beautiful and tradition-rich campus and realize how many students in the years to come will walk these hallowed halls and have their lives changed." Salim is a 1972 graduate of NSU and long-time supporter of athletics and academics at NSU. In addition to the Ireland scholarship, he established four $100,000 endowments over the past two years in memory of the late Jerry Pierce, Richard Ware, Jack Brittain Jr. and H.N. & Inez Towry. Last year, Salim was appointed to the University of Louisiana System board of supervisors by Gov. Jeff Landry. Both Salim and Ireland were inducted into NSU's alumni hall of distinction, the Long Purple Line, in 2024.

Salim talked about the day in November 2023 when he announced the scholarships he created in memory of his friends Brittain, Pierce and Ware, all three regarded as pillars of NSU. "It was a really great day and great for the families, but it left me with a little bit of a hollow feeling because my three buddies weren't there to celebrate it with me," Salim said. "Well, today, my buddy is here. I want everyone here to join me in honoring the most deserving person that could ever be."

Stamey, who met Ireland in a health class in 1978, mentioned the many students, student workers and assistants that Ireland mentored during his years as Sports Information Director and his efforts to promote the university through Athletics.

"[This scholarship] will make a difference to the media students at NSU for years to come and we all need to accept the challenge of helping make Northwestern a top regional university," Stamey said. "It's good talk about generosity, commitment and compassion for this institution and commitment to this town. This is a forward step, one of many things that Skeeter is doing and has done to support our university," Ireland said. "Some of us can't give $1,000. Some of us can't give $100, but we can all give something, if it's just our time and promoting the university. I'm proud to have an example like Skeeter doing this for our university." Friends can contribute to the scholarship by visiting www.northwesternstatealumni.com/.

THE NSU FOUNDATION WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING NEWLY ESTABLISHED SCHOLARSHIP.

Lawrence J. & Viola M. Raleigh
$45,756.00

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR
NSU Foundation Leadership

Laurie Morrow:
"The Foundation is a bridge between NSU's vision and the people who believe in it."

Laurie Morrow, NSU's executive director for Economic Development & University Advancement and executive director of the NSU Foundation joined the NSU family in 2022 after serving in numerous roles in the community and technical system including dean, facilities manager and chief academic officer. Over the years, she supervised all aspects of operations including recruiting, retaining and educating students, maintaining campus facilities and seeing that academic programs were keeping up with a changing educational environment. She also supported mutually beneficial partnerships between the college, business and industry and other educational institutions.

Morrow attended Northwestern State and earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Southeastern Oklahoma State University and a Master of Arts in Counseling and Guidance from Louisiana Tech.

This summer, she and her staff hit the road to speak to civic groups and communities across the region for "The Spark Behind the Park" campaign to talk about the Innovation Park being developed in partnership with NSU and the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts. She visited with a friend recently discuss her goals at NSU.

Can you tell us a bit about your background and what brought you to the NSU Foundation?

I have over 20 years of experience in higher education with 10 years in nonprofit leadership. What drew me to the NSU Foundation was its deep commitment to student success and community engagement. I saw a unique opportunity to build on a strong legacy and help shape the future of NSU.

What excites you most about leading the Foundation at this moment in its history?

We're at a pivotal moment — the university is growing, and there's a renewed energy around innovation and access. I'm excited to align the Foundation's efforts with those strategic goals and to create new opportunities for donors to make a transformative impact.

How do you define success for the NSU Foundation under your leadership?

Success means building sustainable resources that directly benefit students, faculty and the broader NSU community. It's also about fostering strong relationships — with alumni, donors and partners — so they feel connected to our mission and proud of their impact.

What are some of your top priorities in your first year?

My priorities include increasing donor engagement, strengthening internal systems for efficiency and transparency and launching a strategic planning process. I also want to make sure we're telling our story in a way that resonates with both long-time supporters and new friends of NSU.

What do you want alumni and supporters to know about the NSU Foundation today?

The Foundation is a bridge between NSU's vision and the people who believe in it. Every gift matters, and every supporter is a partner in something bigger: empowering students and transforming lives.

What's something you're most proud of?

I take great pride in being a founding member of Pink Sisters of Sabine, a non-profit organization designed to improve the quality of life for breast cancer survivors by providing them with emotional, physical and social support."

Morrow can be reached at morrowl@nsula.edu.

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION
NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR
NSU Foundation Board Chair

Tommy Wright:

"One of the most significant missions we are currently undertaking is creating additional fundraising opportunities."

Tommy Wright has been involved with the NSU Foundation for several years and in January began a two-year term as board chair. He grew up in Many and earned a degree in accounting at NSU in 1973, moved to Houston and joined Deloitte as an audit staff member. In 1985, he joined a local boutique tax firm founded by two former colleagues, which then joined forces with RSM through an acquisition in 2013. He retired from RSM, after 50 years in the business.

Tommy is a long-time supporter of NSU, establishing the Tommy M. Wright Endowed Scholarship and Tommy M. Wright Endowed Professorship the School of Business. He has also supported the Columns Fund and fundraising events and is a trustee of Mary R. Gallaspy Charitable Trust No. 2. He was inducted into the Long Purple Line, NSU's alumni hall of distinction, in 2019.

Tommy recently discussed the impact NSU had on his life and how he hopes to give back.

What is your most memorable experience at NSU?
As a student, I was impressed by the small class sizes, the care and attention that most of the instructors and professors offered to the students. One particular instructor, Ron Stewart, a certified public accountant, was our accounting instructor for two elementary accounting courses and he brought to the classroom his experiences as a CPA working for a large public accounting firm in Houston and also his experiences working with a large public corporation in the energy field. His experiences provided invaluable insights into what we might expect as we embarked on our career journey.

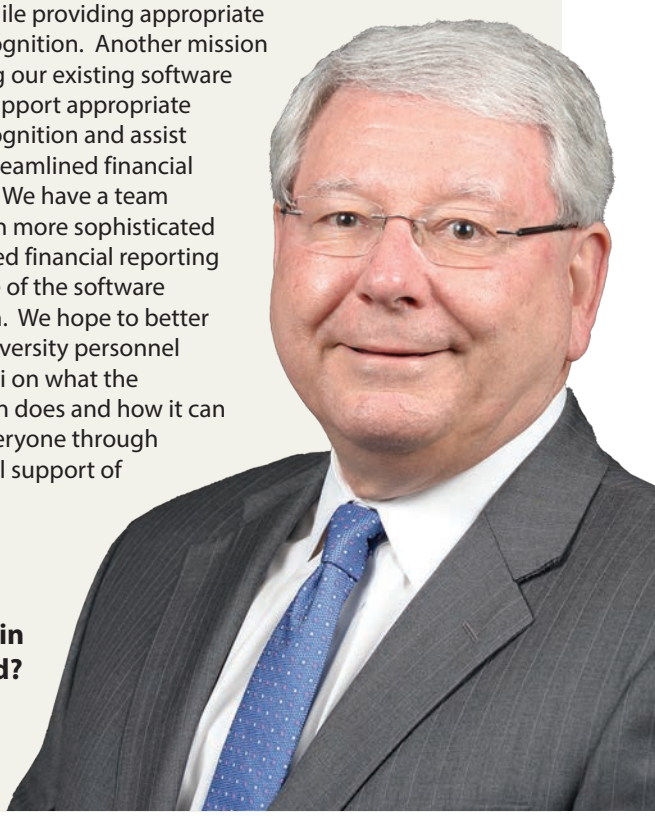
Secondly, but just as important, the friendships I developed while at NSU have been so valuable and worthwhile, as were the experiences socially. As is the case for others, my personal growth and development was enhanced by my classroom experiences, student interactions, fraternity (Kappa Alpha) and social experiences, all of which helped to contribute to the person I am today.

What drives you to support Northwestern State?
I want to give back to the University as a result of the quality education I received and to help the University through NSU Foundation provide similar experiences for other students. I have also had a wonderful experience working with fellow Foundation Board members and Foundation personnel as we work together to improve and grow the capabilities of the Foundation in service to NSU.

What are your hobbies/interests?
My wife, Connie, and I enjoy traveling now that we have the time to do so. We especially enjoy our three young grandchildren. I am involved with three other tax exempts besides NSU. These include serving on the Board of Episcopal High School Endowment Fund, St. John the Divine Episcopal Church Endowment Fund and the Board of Greater Houston Community Foundation. I endeavor to work out frequently during the week attending 6 a.m. classes, weekly appointments with a trainer and a physical therapist.

What are you most proud of, personally or professionally?
I have been blessed by my family. I have a wonderful supportive wife, wonderful grown children and beautiful and loving grandchildren. I am proud of the success I have achieved in my professional and business life which I attribute to my education, work ethic, and dedication.

What are some strategies you have in mind to advance the Foundation's mission?
We have a great team at the Foundation, both internally and with our Board and Committee members. One of the most significant missions we are currently undertaking is creating additional fundraising opportunities and means to involve more alumni in the Foundation's support of NSU, while providing appropriate donor recognition. Another mission is updating our existing software that will support appropriate donor recognition and assist in more streamlined financial reporting. We have a team working on more sophisticated and detailed financial reporting in advance of the software conversion. We hope to better inform University personnel and alumni on what the Foundation does and how it can benefit everyone through its financial support of NSU.



Can you describe yourself in one word?
Diligent

Morris, Shaw earn All-American honors at NCAA track and field nationals

Two days. Two All-Americans.

It was a successful trip to nationals for Northwestern State as Roy Morris earned All-American honors June 11 and Maygan Shaw did the same the following day.

Morris only needed one jump to announce his presence to the country. On his attempt in the long jump in his first ever nationals appearance, the freshman showed no nerves, recording a jump of 24-7.75. The jump stood and after all 24 jumpers competed, he finished 15th to earn a spot as a Second Team All-American on the first day of nationals on the campus of the University of Oregon. Morris is the first NSU freshman to earn an All-American spot since Jessica Talley placed ninth in the women's javelin in 2011.

"Man, I could not be more proud of Roy," jumps coach Alex Wills said. "We came out here with a goal to have fun and gain some great experience and now he's coming home a Second Team All-American.

Morris competed his best as the season went along, as his last three jumps—at the conference meet, East First Round and then nationals—were three of his top four performances of the entire season.

Then it was Shaw's turn. She clocked a 51.80 in the 400-meter dash to place 14th and also earn a Second Team All-American spot during the women's first day of nationals at Hayward Field on the campus of the University of Oregon.

It is the first time a women's sprinter has ever earned an All-American spot.

"I am so proud of her," associate coach Adam Pennington said. "She really went for it today and just came up a little short. But to be a top 14 girl in the entire country is nothing short of amazing. Making it last year was great, but making it individually is much different. I believe she is now the first All American sprinter in an individual event in NSU history. That's alone tells you where she sits as the greatest."

This ends arguably the best career for any NSU sprinter ever, finishing it off with a bang with another All-American spot.

As a senior, she broke both the indoor and outdoor school records, including clocking a Southland Conference record 51.19 at the LSU Alumni Gold, shortly after breaking the SLC and school records two weeks before at the Leon Johnson NSU Invitational with a 51.87, also breaking the meet record as well as the Walter P. Ledet Complex record.

Now Shaw gears up for the USA Championships, which will also be held at Hayward Field, starting on July 31 in Eugene.

Maygan Shaw became the first female sprinter in NSU history in an open event to earn an All-American spot. Photo credit: Southland Conference

Roy Morris put a stamp on a fantastic freshman campaign with a Second Team All-American spot, finishing 15th in the long jump at nationals. Photo credit: Southland Conference

Lela Mae Wilkes and her son Russell along with former Demons baseball pitcher Austin Tanner and wife Anna were among those cheering for the Demons in Baton Rouge April 21. It turned out to be one of the most memorable victories in Demon baseball history with a 13-3 seven-inning run-rule victory over No. 4-ranked LSU, after a weather delay of more than 90 minutes.

Football will kick off at home, Homecoming is October 4

Northwestern State will open a fall football season at home for the first time in a decade when the Demons start the 2025 campaign against Alcorn inside Turpin Stadium on Aug. 28.

Northwestern's 12-game schedule features five home games – four of which come in Southland play. The opener against Alcorn is the lone non-conference home game for the Demons, who embark on a three-game road trip following the opening matchup with the Braves.

Included in the three-game swing is a Sept. 6 contest at Minnesota, which stands as the first Big Ten opponent in program history, and a Sept. 13 trip to Big 12 member Cincinnati.

The Demons' longest road trip of the season concludes Sept. 20 at Prairie View A&M.

Northwestern opens Southland Conference play after a bye week, hosting East Texas A&M on Oct. 4 to start the eight-game conference slate.

The Demons' other three conference home games come Oct. 25 against Lamar, Nov. 8 against UIW and the Nov. 20 regular-season finale against Stephen F. Austin.

Northwestern will make Southland road trips to Houston Christian (Oct. 11), Southeastern Louisiana (Oct. 18), McNeese (Nov. 1) and Nicholls (Nov. 15). Three of those trips – at HCU, Southeastern and Nicholls – are on the docket for the second straight season.

Two of the Demons' home conference games also bring repeat opponents – East Texas A&M and Lamar -- to Turpin Stadium.

In Memory

1943 – Margie Claire Cobb Elston, March 15, 2025, Shreveport

1949 – Catherine M. Rachal Murphy, April 18, 2025, Burkburnett, Texas

1950 – Dona Mae Thompson James, April 10, 2025, St. Joseph

1950 – Marlin R. Sledge, June 3, 2024, Shreveport

1953, 1958 – Lawrence Houston Davis, May 27, 2025, Grand Cane
Dr. Davis was a former professor of mathematics at NSU's Shreveport campus.

1955 – Lieutenant Colonel George Roy Perkins, Sr., May 23, 2025, Summerfield, North Carolina

1957 – Edward G. Nass, April 22, 2025, Lexington, Kentucky

1957 – Burton D. Weaver, May 18, 2025, Natchitoches

1959 – Janell Bryant Lemoine, April 3, 2025, Verda

1960 – Billy Montgomery, April 14, 2025, Haughton

1960 – Venton Royce Coburn, March 24, 2025, Anacoco

1961 - Nancy Ann Albright Lowery, March 22, 2025, Rayville

1961 – Frank Lyle Peske, May 4, 2025, Shreveport

1962 – James Reed Stacy, March 22, 2025, Natchitoches

1963 – Leroy Joseph "Buddy" Cossé, April 16, 2025, Slidell

1964 – Benny Doyle Barridge, June 1, 2025, Prairie Grove, Arkansas

1964 – Dr. Roy Birchfield Gentry II, May 6, 2025, Natchitoches
Dr. Gentry was a retired professor of kinesiology at NSU.

1964 – Dr. Carroll Slack, Aug. 29. 2020, Martin, Tennessee

1965 – Clinton Reed Marks Jr., Jan. 17, 2025, Plano, Texas

1965 – James Thomas Mathis, April 3, 2025, Natchitoches

1966 – Marietta Baker Lee, April 18, 2025, Baton Rouge

1966 – Velora "Vee" Ann Mitchell Guess, June 11, 2025, Hornbeck

1968 – Diane Gunter, May 17, 2025, Natchitoches

1969 – Mayme Strange, April 5, 2025, Fayetteville, Arkansas

1972 – Rosalie Lafont Blackwell, April 12, 2025, Haymarket, Virginia

1972 – Jessie Lee Hoffpauir, May 1, 2025, Natchitoches

1973, 1982 – Claudia Connor Machen McBride, April 24, 2025, Winnfield

1974 – Rickey Henry Bates, April 18, 2025, Chatham

1974 – John Levy LaCaze, March 30, 2025, Natchitoches

1975 – Linda Harrison Ward, May 3, 2025, Kingwood, Texas

1978 – George David Lewis, May 23, 2025, Kisatchie

1983 – Virginia "Ginger" Ann Roberson Jordan, May 23, 2025, Many

1992 – Jemi LaHaye Carlone, May 16, 2026, Belle Chasse

2004 – Jeremy Wayne Malmay, May 16, 2025, Shreveport

2008 – Scott T. Dawson, June 2, 2025, Natchitoches

2009 – Nathan Eric Sundberg, May 15, 2025, Flower Mount, Texas

Billie Lou Weldon Luster, March 15, 2025, Many

Charlsie Coker, Feb. 2, 2025, Natchitoches

Danny Vestal, March 8, 2025, Sugar Land, Texas

Carolyn Moreland Shannon, May 24, 2025, Natchitoches

Guess Who

From the Spring 2025 edition…
NSU honored a special Natchitoches Parish resident with an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts during 1985 spring commencement exercises, a cause championed by two members of the faculty. The honoree was Natchitoches primitive artist Clementine Hunter. She was pictured with Tom Whitehead and Dr. Mildred Bailey.

Those who guessed correctly are as follows.

Cammie DeBlieux Davis (1980), Baton Rouge
James "Jim" Martin (1985), Brandon, Mississippi
Margaret Griffin (1967), Denton, Texas

Dr. Griffin writes, *"Dr. Mildred Hart Bailey was my major advisor for my Master of Arts in Education Degree in 1967. At her encouragement I pursued a Doctor of Education Degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1969. I have several of Clementine's paintings including a watercolor when she signed her name as Clemence that Dede gave to me. I lived in Alexandria, La., for many years teaching elementary school. I now live in Denton, Texas where I taught at Texas Woman's University for 26 years retiring in 2000. Both my master's and doctoral majors were in Reading and Psychology."*

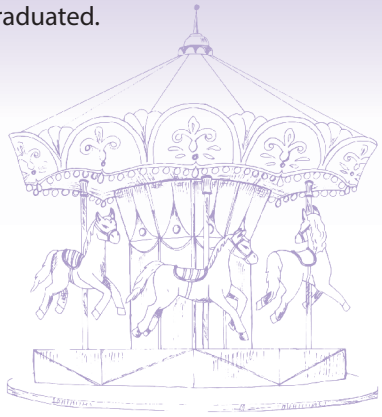
Crystalyn Whitaker Nelson (2012), Shreveport
Jackie Horton (1982, 1985), Natchitoches
Em Horton (1987, 1993, 2001), Natchitoches
Donna Masson (1969, 1979), Natchitoches
Stacie Lafitte Sydow (1985, 1987) Midlothian, Virginia
Kip Patrick (1995), Valencia, Spain
Marlene Hilton Kierbow (1992), Dallas
Paula Mannzen Patrick (1980), Converse
Louis "Robby" Robinett (1989) Sulphur Springs, Texas
J. Craig Poleman (1985), Shreveport
Vivian Johnson (1972), Shreveport

Ms. Johnson writes, *"I recognized Ms. Hunter right away! She was an amazing woman! I met her when I was about nine or 10, when my aunt and uncle brought me to visit them at her home in Natchez. My cousin was also recognized in this issue, Coach Charles Smith! He made such a great contribution to his team and others. I am so very proud of him. I was a Peabody graduate."*

Dr. Sam (1964, 1966/Professor Emeritus at Louisiana Tech University) and Dr. Jo (1965, 1966/Dean and Professor Emerita at Louisiana Tech University) Vermalaen Dauzat, Arcadia.

The doctors write, *"We, along with two of our four sons, attended the ceremony and reception. We have been collectors of Clementine Hunter art and memorabilia for decades. Dr Mildred Bailey was our Major Professor for our master's program at NSU. She was instrumental in promoting our appreciation of Clementine Hunter and of her historical documentation of life as she experienced it through her art."*

The Current Sauce edition from June 20, 1995, pictured a rehearsal for that summer's production of the popular Broadway musical "Carousel." **Can you name them?** If so, send an email to jacksonl@nsula.edu with your name, city of residence and the year you graduated.



Looking Back

CURRENT SAUCE
NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY NATCHITOCHES LOUISIANA
Former NSU President
Dr. Kyser succumbs
NSU adopts new logo
Summer enrollment highest in "Northwestern" history

July 1975

Former NSU President Dr. John Kyser, for whom Kyser Hall is named, passed away July 14, 1975, in Shreveport. Kyser joined the faculty at Northwestern in 1923 and served as president from 1954-1966. Over 31 years as a classroom instructor at Northwestern, Kyser taught more than 10,000 students in geography, European history, economics and international relations. He authored several academic texts and developed a number of courses at the university, including the school's first course in audio-visual education, an area in which NSU was already a recognized pioneer.

As president, Kyser inaugurated the first graduate program at any institution under the Louisiana Board of Education and was instrumental in the development of the first closed circuit television instruction program at any school of higher learning in the state. He was survived by his wife Thelma Zelenka Kyser, a former faculty member, and a daughter, Janet Kyser, a teacher in Caddo Parish.

In other news, NSU introduced a new logo that was used on signage and marketing materials for the next decade. The logo was designed by Charles "Randy" Norman (1975) then a graduate student in art.

Finally, summer enrollment at NSU hit its highest peak in the 91-year history of the school with 3,885 students taking summer classes.

Northwestern State University
Alumni Columns
Natchitoches, LA 71497-0002

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northwesternstatealumni.com

Class of 1975 Celebrates Golden Jubilee

NSU's graduating Class of 1975 returned to campus for their Golden Jubilee May 15 when they were presented with 50-year diplomas as part of a two-day celebration that concluded with the 50+ Luncheon in which all graduates from 1975 and earlier were invited. Class members are, front row from left, Brinda Irving-Doyle, Alma Stewart Allen, Larry Heard, Susie Smith Swayze, Elizabeth Falcon Durr and Linda Davis Eden. On the second row are Jan Carboni, Lydia Petrus Kennedy, Sharon Montgomery Hudnell, Carnelliue Styles Braden, Foy Melder, Barbara Gunn, Lenn Dohmann Prince and Ramon L. Cason. On the third row are James Alan Rambin, Cheryl Shepherd Rambin, Charlotte Creamer Nyman, Kenneth M. Ebarb, Thomas E. Roque Sr., Velma Shannon White, Melissa Muse Trammell and Anthony Armistead Robinson. On the back row are Connie Landry Robertson, John Robertson, Robert Silvie, Joe Sers and Rodney Harrington.